REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks to follow is respectfully requested. Since the present amendment raises no new issues, and in any event, places the application in better condition for consideration on appeal, entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Before addressing the specific grounds of rejection raised in the outstanding Office Action, applicants have amended Claims 1 and 19 to positively recite that the first element is a calibration structure that is located in a first region of the substrate. Support for this amendment to Claims 1 and 19 is found, for example, in paragraphs 0010, 0015 and 0016 of the originally filed specification.

Claims 1 and 19 have also been amended to positively recite that the claimed selecting step provides a precision element comprised of the at least one selected individual second element that has said target value. Support for this amendment to the claims is found, for example, in paragraphs 0033, 0034 and 0039.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-12 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,757,264 to Petit ("Petit").

Concerning the § 102 rejection, it is axiomatic that anticipation under § 102 requires that the prior art reference disclose each and every element of the claim to which it is applied. In re King, 801 F.2d, 1324, 1326, 231 USPQ 136, 138 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Thus, there must be no differences between the subject matter of the claim and the disclosure of the prior art reference. Stated another way, the reference must contain within its four corners adequate direction to practice the invention as claimed. The corollary of the rule is equally applicable: Absence from

the applied reference of any claimed element negates anticipation. Kloster Speedsteel AB v. Crucible Inc., 793 F.2d 1565, 1571, 230 USPQ 81, 84 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Applicants submit that the claims of the present application are not anticipated by the disclosure of Petit since the applied reference does not disclose applicants' claimed methods recited in amended Claims 1 and 19. In particular, Petit does not discloses the claimed method which includes first providing a first element comprising a calibration structure in a first region. In accordance with the claimed invention, the calibration structure has a measured value, which is then compared to a target value that one wishes to obtain. At least one of the individual elements in the second region of the substrate is then selected which is closest to the targeted value to provide a precision element that has said target value. The precision element of the claimed invention is comprised of the selected second individual element.

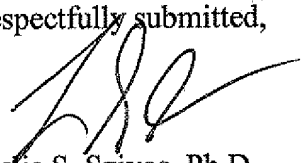
Petit provides a resist structure in which trimming resistors are used to adjust the resistance value of a main resistor. Petit does not disclose applicants' claimed methods that utilize a first element comprising a calibration structure which is measured and compared to a target value. The compared value is then used in determining which of the individual elements are selected in forming a precision element.

In Petit, the 'precision' element is composed of the main resistor and at least one of the trimmed resistors, while in the claimed invention, the precision element is comprised of one of the selected second elements.

The foregoing remarks clearly demonstrate that the applied reference does not teach each and every aspect of the claimed invention, as required by King and Kloster Speedsteel; therefore the claims of the present application are not anticipated by the disclosure of Petit.

Thus, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is firmly believed that the present case is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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